

OBITUARY NOTICE.

HUGH L. HODGE, M.D., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania, died at his residence, in Philadelphia, on the morning of February 26, 1873, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

Dr. Hodge was born on June 27, 1796, at his father's house, in Water Street, Philadelphia; he came of that Scotch Irish Presbyterian stock, which has given so many good and great men to our country—a descent which, almost necessarily, implies a vigorous intellect, a strong, unyielding will, and great energy of character, combined with *religious* principles so deeply grounded that they seem innate to the blood. Dr. Hodge's grandfather was Andrew Hodge, who emigrated to this country in 1730, and was a well-known and successful merchant of Philadelphia; his father was Dr. Hugh Hodge, who served in the Continental army during the war for independence.

After peace was declared, Dr. Hugh Hodge practised his profession in Philadelphia; during the epidemics of yellow fever in 1793 and 1795, he was distinguished for his heroism and devotion, and, like so many other noble men of our profession, he fell a victim to his philanthropy, and died in 1798, leaving a widow and two sons; one of these sons was the subject of this notice; the other is Professor Charles Hodge, D.D., of the Theological Seminary of Princeton, N. J.

The mother, left in straitened circumstances, sacrificed everything to educate her sons.

Hugh L. Hodge, as a lad, was sent to the grammar school connected with the University of Pennsylvania, and in 1812 he entered the Sophomore class of Nassan Hall, Princeton, where he graduated, at the head of his class, in 1814. Beginning, immediately, the study of medicine, Hugh L. Hodge became the private pupil of Dr. Caspar Wistar; matriculated at the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, following, at the same time, the practice of the Pennsylvania Hospital and the Philadelphia Almshouse; in 1818, he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

Dr. Hodge now resolved to go to India as surgeon of a vessel, hoping that, by the commercial ventures of the voyage, he would realize enough money to enable him, on his return, to visit Europe, and there continue his professional studies; in this, however, he was disappointed; he sailed in September, 1818, and returned safely in 1820. While in India Dr. Hodge saw many cases of malignant cholera—a disease at that time unknown either in Europe or America—and acquired a knowledge of its symptoms and treatment, which proved invaluable in the great epidemic of 1832; during this epidemic, Dr. Hodge was very active in the cholera hospitals, for which he received a vote of thanks from the city, and was presented by the authorities with a silver pitcher.

Returning from India, Dr. Hodge began the practice of his profession, and was elected one of the physicians to the Southern Dispensary, and afterwards to the Philadelphia Dispensary. In 1821 he commenced his career as a teacher of medicine, taking charge of Dr. Horner's anatomical class while Dr. Horner visited Europe. In 1823 Dr. Hodge became Lecturer on the Principles of Surgery, in the Medical Institute, in connection with Drs. Chapman, Dewees, Horner, Bell, Mitchell, Jackson, and Harris. This lectureship he exchanged for that of Obstetrics, on the resignation of Dr. Dewees from the Institute, in 1830. In 1823 Dr. Hodge was appointed physician to the Philadelphia Almshouse, and in 1830, Obstetrical Physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital.

After practising medicine for fifteen years, and teaching it for fourteen years, in November, 1835, Dr. Hodge was elected Professor of Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Children in the University of Pennsylvania, which position he filled for twenty-eight years; in 1863, in consequence of his failing vision, he resigned his professorship, and was made Emeritus Professor by the Trustees of the University.

When Dr. Hodge resigned his professorship, he generously presented to the Trustees of the University his very valuable museum, together with the whole of his collection used by him in illustrating his lectures, obtained at great cost, and the accumulation of the twenty-eight years of his incumbency; with the request that the whole collection should be kept distinct from the general museum of the school, and that it should always be under the curatorship of the Professor of Obstetrics.

It is difficult, in an article necessarily as brief as this must be, to do justice to Dr. Hodge as a teacher; his style was characterized by great purity, dignity, and earnestness; his intellect was too strong, and his experience too great, to permit him to follow blindly the theories or teachings of others, and, therefore, his lectures were markedly original, and he never hesitated boldly to differ from doctrines, though almost universally accepted, when he believed them to be false. The old Alumni of the University will recall with tender recollections the benign and intellectual countenance, the deep and manly tones of their beloved professor, as he earnestly endeavoured to impress upon them some point which he deemed of great importance.

For many years Dr. Hodge was so completely engrossed by the cares of practice and teaching, that he had no time to contribute to the literature of the profession; during his early professional life he was one of the editors of the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*, being associated with Drs. Franklin Bache, Charles D. Meigs, B. R. Coates, and R. La Roche; this journal was organized and conducted by the members of the Kappa Lambda Society. Dr. Hodge contributed to it some original articles, and also occasional reviews. He also contributed a valuable article on aneurism to the *American Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine and Surgery*.

In 1860, Dr. Hodge published his work on *Diseases Peculiar to Women, including Displacements of the Uterus*; the object of this most valuable book, dedicated, as it was, to the Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania, was to present to them the views on the nervous diseases of women which he had for so many years taught in the halls of the University. The author desired to present not merely what he deemed a more correct theory and practice in inflammatory diseases of the uterus, but to insist that a very large proportion of the so-called cases of metritis are, in reality, but examples of *irritation*, where inflammation has subsided, or where it actually never existed; indeed, the chief object of the whole book is to exemplify the nature, consequences, and treatment of nervous *irritation* as distinct from *inflammation*. Convinced by long experience, the author shows that the uterus is involved in most of these complaints, and that its disturbances are very frequently dependent upon *displacements* of the organ, and hence the work is largely devoted to the subject of displacements of the uterus and their mechanical treatment.

In 1864 Dr. Hodge published his great work on obstetrics—dedicated to the memory of Thomas C. James and Wm. P. Dewees, the first and second professors of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. This volume, whether we estimate it by the learning, research, and care which its pages display, or by its original teachings and illustrations, or by the philosophical character, as well as great force and clearness of its instruction, must be ranked among the

first works on obstetrics ever issued from the American or foreign press. Dr. Hodge, in this book, gives his teachings as Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania for twenty-eight years; and the many thousands of the Alumni of the University who, during this long period, had the good fortune to be instructed by him, as well as those who have graduated since, will always turn with pride, pleasure, and profit to the noble work of their old professor.

But not only as an author did Dr. Hodge benefit his profession; he contributed many invaluable instruments to the surgery of obstetrics and female diseases; our space, however, will not permit more than mere reference to these. The lever pessary, one of Dr. Hodge's original conceptions, is now universally recognized as *the* instrument for the treatment of certain forms of uterine displacements. Like the forceps of Chamberlen, it has received innumerable modifications, none of which, however, are improvements; and the simple open and closed lever pessaries of Hodge will always remain the perfect types of the lever pessary. The Hodge electric forceps is so well known, that it would be useless to say of it more than that, in the great number of modifications which the obstetrical forceps has received, *none* are better, and few as good, as the Hodge modification. Hodge's compressores cranii and sharp and blunt craniotomy scissors are admirably adapted for the purposes for which they were designed.

After resigning his professorship, in addition to the preparation and supervision of the works alluded to, Dr. Hodge contributed some valuable papers on obstetrical subjects to this Journal, and, at the same time, was engaged in a very extensive practice in the treatment of female diseases; his successes were sometimes extraordinary, and patients came to him from all parts of the country.

In 1872 the title of LL.D. was conferred on Dr. Hodge by Nassau Hall, Princeton.

The last ten years of Dr. Hodge's life were busy years; he had passed the age when most men cease to work, and yet, save an infirmity of vision, his faculties were perfect. His form was erect, his step elastic, his hearing acute, while his intellect was as clear, and his sympathies as quick as ever; he occupied himself in practice, and in literary pursuits, and continued his professional engagements until the very afternoon of the day of his last illness; on this very day, too, he spent several hours preparing an article on cephalotripsy, at which he had been working for some weeks.

Dr. Hodge took great interest in the religious and philanthropic movements of the day, and was active in the affairs of the church of which he was a member, and most generous in his benefactions to it, and other good causes; but he enriched the medical profession, and did good to the world, not only by the books which he wrote, and the instruments he devised, but by a life and example that will not soon lose their influence. The great doctor, the learned professor, the man who was looked up to by the community in which he lived, and by the profession which he adorned, was, at the same time, the devout and humble believer—with the spirit and faith of a little child: though his praise was in all the churches, yet he esteemed *himself* among the least of the brethren.

On the 24th of February, after a busy day, during which he seemed in his usual good health and spirits, he was seized, near midnight, with nausea, faintness, failure of the heart's action and of respiration, and died twenty-six hours after his first attack, sustained, in his last hours, by that faith he had learned at his mother's knee—that strong faith he had inherited from a pious race, which, generations before, had sacrificed country and home for religious freedom.

R. A. F. P.